

The Roadrunner Review



Volume 3 Issue 4

December 2009

December 2009 Events

- 3 Cici's Pizza Night
- 8 4th & 5th Grd Music Program at EMS 7:00 pm
- 10 Birthday Lunch PTO Meeting 6:00 pm
- 18 Second Quarter Ends Roadrunner Awards 2:15-Intermediate 2:45-Primary Winter Sing-Along
- 21- Jan 4 Winter Break

Jan. 5-STUDENTS RETURN

NICHOLS' NOTES

By Nick Nichols, Principal

Parents - Help Needed

Students and teachers are working very hard trying to make sure our Ross students are prepared to take the State Assessment and do well on them so that our school makes AYP this year. We need your help in the following ways:

♦ **Talk to your child every day.** If you ask what your child learned or studied and s/he says, "Nothing," you should contact your child's teacher immediately. :) Talking with your child every day about school tells your child that school is important and that you support the work that the staff is doing to prepare your child.

♦ **Stress the importance of doing your personal best in everything.** A good education is one of the best things our children can get. It lasts a lifetime and no one can ever take it away.

♦ **Use the entire school day.** Please make sure your child is at school by or before 8:30 AM and pick them up between 3:30-3:40 PM. Learning begins at the very beginning of the day and continues until the very end of the day. Missing out on even 10 minutes of school a day can impact your child's success.

♦ **Do NOT pick up your students early to avoid parking problems.** Learning begins at 8:30 AM and continues until dismissal at 3:30 PM. We ask that parents avoid picking up students before 3:30 PM. When you check your child out of school early to avoid traffic, what type of message are you sending regarding the importance of education? We know that there are times when students have appointments which may require your child to leave early, but this should not be a daily occurrence.

Happy Holiday Season

The Ross staff would like to wish all of our students a safe and happy holiday season. If you are traveling by car, please take a moment to make sure your child is secure in a seat belt. No one plans to have an accident- they just happen. We want all of our students to return to school following their holiday break that was safe and enjoyable.

Congratulations November Roadrunner Winners!

Mrs. Ferguson: Jaiden Smith & Aaliyah Blanchard

Mrs. Holliday: Brandon Sanders, Max Rodriguez, & Bryce Riggins

Mr. Kennedy: Lizbeth Del Real, Andrea Valadez, & Drathan Dehncke

Mrs. Baruth: Christopher Reyes-Gonzales

Mrs. DeLorge: Asaiah Thompson & Alayja Clark

Ms. Maynard: Zoe Komahcheet & Tra'Niyah Garland

Mrs. Seelbach: Bryson Bullocks & Yana Jefferson

Mrs. Cunningham:

Ms. Feldkamp: Nick Dunlap, Trejon James & Amie Tabares

Ms. Meinert: Kanyon Alexander, Alana Buckmaster, & Dewey Washington

Ms. Artzer: Hayden DeLorge & Shelby Welch

Mrs. McConnaughey: Centrell Sommers & Selena Mobley

Mrs. Michaelson: Anahi Bolanos & Harmonie Williams

Ms. Aubert: DayJanaye Henderson, Peyton Newby, & Laura Lopez

Mrs. Brown-Reed: Xzaviare Hampton, Keishera Lately, & Jesus Macias

Mrs. Cox: Evelyn Waggoner & Kor-tez Kelly

Mr. Kelly: Marissa Fillyaw and David Fuentes

Ms. Kuntz: Devin Lambert & Derick Cosey-Plymer

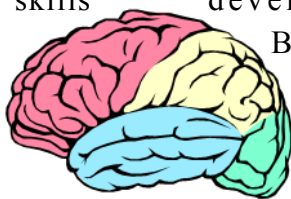


Ross Mission Statement

The mission of Ross Elementary School is to develop a partnership among students, parents, staff and the community to build a foundation of excellence in academic and life skills.

BrainWare Safari in the Computer Lab

Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade students at Ross are participating in a pilot program for the district called BrainWare Safari. This program is designed to train the brain to process information quickly. BrainWare Safari covers cognitive skills in six areas: Attention, Visual Processing, Auditory Processing, Memory, Thinking, and Sensory Integration. "Cognitive skills are the basic skills that embody our ability to learn," according to the BrainWare Safari Travel Guide. These are skills that enable us to understand, interpret and apply information in the world around us. The skills developed in



BrainWare Safari were selected because they are the most critical for learning across all areas of the curriculum. Ross students are working on the program 12 weeks, for 30 minutes, five days a week. This program states that it will increase people's cognitive skill level 4 years and academic level 2 years during this time frame. Since we are a pilot program for the district, some students are part of a control group

that have and will be tested throughout the program to see if the growth claims are accurate. Permission slips were sent home to the students who are part of the control group. The students have been working on BrainWare for the second quarter and will continue until after Christmas. Hopefully, it will increase our student's cognitive skill levels.

Robin Allen

Speech News

Hi! My name is April Best, and I am the Speech-Language Pathologist at Ross Elementary. Speech-Language Pathologists in schools are involved in evaluating and treating disorders of speech and language, and we work with children from pre-school through high school. Speech-Language Pathologists also work to promote hearing health. Normal hearing is vital in the development of young children. Hearing loss can negatively impact a child's ability to learn language, communicate, and learn academic skills. There are a variety of causes of hearing loss, such as ear infections or noise exposure. Fortunately, noise exposure is a cause that we can prevent. Loud noise exposure can cause permanent hearing loss. It is important for parents to take an active role in their children's hearing health. Parents should monitor the vol-

ume level of music that their child is listening to, and ensure that it is a safe level. Another way to decrease hearing loss is to limit the amount of listening time. Parents should limit the amount of time their child listens to an iPod or other MP3 player. Parents should also ensure that their child wears ear plugs if attending an event that will be loud, such as a concert. Hearing health is not often thought of in the conversation regarding general health, but it is definitely just as important.

Information obtained from www.asha.org.

Fourth Grade News

Wow! This year is going so fast. The fourth grade is so busy right now. Right now my class is working very hard on their special Christmas projects. They are looking so good. I hope our parents really like and appreciate all the hard and time consuming work this takes.

We are also learning about different classifications of animals. The students are working on a group project on animals which they are making a poster. They are also busy creating a power point presentation of an animal of their choice. The power point will be available during parent teacher conferences. In math we are now in the lesson about measurement and multi-digit multiplication.

Miss Aubert

Musical Notes

Fourth/Fifth Grade

Holiday Program

Dec. 8th will be the Fourth and Fifth Grade Holiday Program at 7:00 p.m. in the Eisenhower Middle School Commons Room. The students have been working on some more challenging music to present this year. There will still be some traditional pieces but they are being challenged with partner songs, canon's and learning to sing in different languages. We hope that you will plan to attend this special night.

The program title is "Holiday Memories" and should be a nice compilation of music the students learned from Kindergarten to the Fourth and Fifth Grade. The Select Choir will also perform four selections during the program.

"MR. B"

Concert Etiquette Quiz

1. You should enter the auditorium/commons area
 - a. as loudly as possible
 - b. quietly
 - c. walking backwards
2. It is always a good idea to arrive
 - a. a bit early
 - b. just as the performance is beginning.
 - c. only in time to catch your child's performance
3. If you must arrive late, it is best to enter
 - a. whenever you arrive
 - b. during your child's performance
 - c. between musical selections
4. During the concert, it is a good

idea to

- a. discuss the performance
 - b. sit silently and listen
 - c. eat dinner
5. For cell phone usage during a performance, it is best to
 - a. answer your phone quickly and speak quietly
 - b. leave the room to use the phone
 - c. turn off your phone, or, leave it at home
 6. Applause should be given when
 - a. the performance is finished and the conductor faces the audience
 - b. your child has finished his/her part
 - c. any time something is done well.
 7. After the performance is over you should
 - a. leave your seat, rush the stage to get your child
 - b. exclaim how tired you are
 - c. sit and wait until the children have been excused
 8. On the way home, it is a good idea to
 - a. critique the performance
 - b. offer your praise
 - c. offer your sympathy

Answers: 1.b 2.a 3.c 4.b 5.c 6.a 7.c 8.b

Third Grade News

We have been busy in math finishing up Unit 4 Multiplication and Division. We have been making the transition from addition to multiplication. Practice, practice, practice those multiplication and division facts at home. Don't forget to keep up with the addition and subtraction facts as well!

In reading, we just finished up *Patrick and the Great Molasses Explosion*. What a fun story! We worked on retelling, and also reading a recipe. At the conclusion of our story, we even made

molasses cookies in the classroom.

Thank you to all the support from parents in making your child's year a successful one. We appreciate your support!

Mrs. McConnaughey

News From 3rd Grade

The past four weeks Mrs. Michaelson's class conducted a school wide food drive for the Topeka Rescue Mission. This project began after a class discussion on community service and volunteer work. Students wanted to run a food drive before Thanksgiving. Students collected and recorded data from each grade level as donations were collected every week. A total of 730 items were collected for the Rescue Mission. Mrs. Cunningham's 2nd grade class has won a Root Beer Float party having collected the most items. What a great effort for all the students at Ross.

Nondiscrimination Notice

The Topeka Public Schools, Unified School District No. 501 is committed to affirmative action and equal opportunity. No person shall, on the basis of age, race, color, creed, religion, gender, disability, national origin or ancestry be denied lawful access to any appropriate educational service, program or activity provided by the school district. The Title IX compliance coordinator is the associate superintendent of administrative and support services. The Section 504 compliance coordinator is the general director of special services. The clerk of the Board of Education has been designated to receive and redirect or handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, regulations and procedures. The clerk may be contacted by calling (785) 295-3045 or by writing to 624 SW 24th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66611-1294.

